



TUG HILL TOMORROW LAND TRUST

Protecting Tug Hill's working farm and forest lands, its wildlands, and natural and cultural heritage, for the benefit of present and future generations.

March 5, 2012

Ms. Judy Anderson
PO BOX 617
Kinderhook, NY 12106

Dear Judy:

I wanted to take a moment and give you an update on what we have been able to do with your support over the last two months.

Already, thanks to you, we have begun assisting two farm families in Jefferson County to conserve their land. One of these farms, owned by Jim and Mindy Whitmore, has been in their family for generations, and once conserved the Whitmores plan to reinvest back into the farm and raise beef cattle.

With your support, we are able to continue working with farmers and local landowners like the Whitmores to conserve their land; helping to keep land available for agriculture, protecting wildlife habitat, and providing treasured landscapes for future generations.

Programs Underway:

We have also been planning our 2012 programs and events, and have a very impressive line-up planned for the coming months! These educational and fun activities are diverse and will be engaging and inspiring young and old as we celebrate the land and people of our region.



For example, this spring kids and their families will be cleaning up the Black River in Watertown; students throughout the region will be birding at school while participating in a special outdoor education program focused on birds of our area – all part of our 13th Annual Classroom Feeder Team Program; and folks will be invited to Lewis County to visit a Tree Farm and learn about forest management, while checking out some of the area's most beautiful array of wildflowers.

It's because of support from people like you that we're able to hold programs like these, help conserve the family lands of the Tug Hill region and provide life-changing programs for kids, their families and folks throughout the Tug Hill region.

Changes on the horizon:

I also want to inform you of some important changes here at the land trust. It is with mixed emotions I am letting you know that after three years of dedicated work, our Director of Outreach & Community Programs, Janelle Castro, has left to start a new endeavor closer to family with the Santa Monica Baykeeper in California. I know you share my best wishes for Janelle in her new job, but suffice to say ... she will be missed a great deal here.

Janelle has really made a difference at Tug Hill Tomorrow as we work hard to ensure the next generation will love the land on a personal level, just like you do. She played a big role in leading our efforts to greatly expand our field trips and educational programs, hosting community events, creating the first ever Tug Hill Calendar, and building stronger partnerships with area schools and educational organizations. Janelle will be assisting us remotely for a couple of months as a consultant, as we hire her replacement.

Increasing our Land Protection Efforts:

We also have some good news to share. We are now in the final stages of securing funding to hire a Land Protection Manager.

This will be very important in our efforts to continue to serve the growing number of landowners who wish to protect their land. As it is now, I serve as the land protection person in addition to the other tasks necessary to run the land trust – and we have recognized this is no longer sustainable or effective given the increased demand for conservation services.

Many landowners cannot wait for years until we have the time to work on their projects and we pride ourselves in providing thoughtful, responsive, and timely assistance. This new position will therefore allow us to double our land protection efforts, as I will continue to work on land protection projects too – just not at the same level.

Thank you again for your support of local conservation, and for the conservation work throughout the entire Tug Hill region. Please give me a call or send me an email if you have any questions. This spring will be an exciting time for conservation in our region.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Garrett
Executive Director

P.S. We will be sending periodic updates via our e-newsletter. Feel free to sign up on our website if you haven't already. In addition, we expect to unveil our updated website later this spring – specifically designed to be more user friendly and engaging.

